

EXHIBIT 3  
DATE 2/13/07  
HB 541

FAX

*appropriations Comm*

To: 406-444-4825

Fr: 406-257-7244

Re: HB 541

In support of HB 541 the following 2  
FAX are being sent on for your support.

February 12, 2007

Summer Youth Program

When I was 14 yrs old, I worked my first job through the Summer Youth Employment Program and learned a lot of new stuff. I also worked again when I was 16 yrs old for the Forest Service and loved that job. When I was 17 yrs old I worked through your program again and after the program ended, was hired part time by Lincoln County Parks and Recreation.

I learned how to work on a crew, be on time and was able to help my mom with some of my own expenses. My mom and I lived alone then and money was always a problem. I am now 26 yrs old, a single Dad raising my daughter by myself. I know some of the things I learned back then help me with jobs now. I still use my experience with Lincoln County as a job reference when looking for work.

I hope you can do this program again.



Jeremy Morris  
221 Glendora  
Libby, MT 59923

Feb 12 2007 4:41PM HP LASERJET FAX

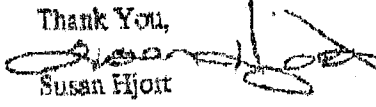
406-293-2630

February 12, 2007

To Whom it May Concern,

This letter is to inform you of a positive service that my daughter Lindsay Hjort received from your organization. She was able to participate in a summer job-training program at our local library. Not only did she receive experience in the job market, but also boosted her self-esteem, built her character and gave her confidence that she will be able to use long term. If at all possible, I would recommend that you re-establish the program to give others the opportunity to learn valuable life long skills.

Thank You,

  
Susan Hjort

FAX Total 2 pgs

**RE: HB 541 Summer Youth Employment Program**

February 12, 2007

As a Case Manager and Employment Counselor for the past 20 years, I worked with the Summer Youth Program every year until it was no longer a funded program. Through those years I can recall many, many positive outcomes for our participants. The following is just a few that readily come to mind:

The first is a young man in the Eureka area that had no direction or career thoughts at the age of 16. We put him to work at the Murphy lake Ranger Station doing trail crew work. He worked there for 3 summers, and then went to college for his forest ecology degree with the financial aid of the USFS. The forest service not only helped him with his college tuition, they also provided him with guaranteed summer employment until he graduated. This young man has now worked for the forest service as a forestry tech for more than 10 years and plans on making it to his 30 retirement by the time he is 50 years old.

Another opportunity presented a young high school student was a career trip during the summer to research colleges and vo-techs within Montana. On this trip, we took the participants to Malstrom Air Force Base in Great Falls where this young man was completed captured by the thought of a military career. Immediately after graduating from high school, this young man enlisted in the air force, has received his college education and is still a member of our Armed Forces.

The most powerful memory I have is of a 17 year old girl that quit school in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. She stated that her parents drank so much and there was so much abuse in her household that she was unable sleep and "just quit going to school!" and that no one even noticed she wasn't going any longer. We were able to place her in a very positive environment, with excellent mentors where she learned how to be self directed and motivated. This was the first place she had ever spent time where someone actually appreciated her being there. Her confidence grew, and she planned on continuing here education by enrolling in GED classes. I have since lost touch with her, but I bet she completed her GED and is doing well on her own.

In more recent years, I have had a number of past SYEP participants come in and ask if this program is now available for their young teenagers. They still remember the positive experience and want to pass it on their kids.

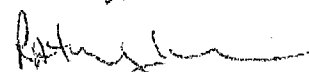
The opportunities presented to the participants of the Summer Youth Employment Program are unequaled. The young people of rural Montana do not have the job options that many of the bigger cities can offer. There is very little part time, summer

employment for rural Montana youth and giving these kids positive role models in supervisors and counselors is imperative to their success in life.

It was my personal experience one summer that more than 70% of the youths I had enrolled had never seen a working parent. These kids had no concept of appropriate dress, how to be on time, how to follow directions or any concept of what working was really like.

I would like to strongly encourage the funding of the Summer Youth Employment Program again. It has been the most productive program in which I have worked in my many years as a counselor.

Sincerely,



Kathy Kinzey  
PO Box 987  
Libby, MT 59923

